

A HELPING HAND

by

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EXT. A STREET - EVENING

LYDIA, early 50s, is sitting in her car outside a house. She looks down at the mobile phone in her hand and reads the text message: *Happy Birthday, L. I won't be so crass as to wish you happy Valentine's Day. I bought your present ages ago. It'd be a shame to see it go to waste. Chester x*

Lydia looks up at the house. She sighs heavily and opens her car door, but shuts it again when she hears angry shouting. She winds down the car window when she sees the front door of the house she's outside open.

GIGI, mid 20s, drags her suitcase down the stairs. CHESTER, mid 50s, is behind her and in front of the open front door.

GIGI
Bastard! I hate you!

CHESTER
Gigi, try to understand.
It's over. I want my wife
back. And you making a
scene won't change my mind.

She stops dead in her tracks and dropping her suitcase on the steps, turns back to face Chester, her eyes ablaze with anger. He looks at her pleadingly.

GIGI
(Thick Spanish accent)
You want to go back to
precious Lydia, fine.
Instead of me, fabuloso
me, you want "the only
woman you've ever loved;
who makes you laugh, is
kind and caring"? Fine.
You'll never see me again.

For his benefit, her hands caress her toned, voluptuous body.

GIGI
You'll never have... this
again! Take a good look,
Chester, because you have
lost all... of... this...

A BEAT, then she gives him a slap across the face which causes him to clutch his cheek. Having witnessed all this in her car, Lydia gasps out loud. Gigi and Chester turn towards her car.

Chester looks surprised but pleased to see her. Gigi gives her a "well look who's here" look. She turns back to Chester.

GIGI
Thanks for nothing!

For her parting shot she spits on the steps before grabbing her suitcase and stomping down the steps just as Lydia EXITS her car. She stops and gives Lydia a cursory look up and down.

GIGI
Happy Valentine's Day(!)
You deserve each other.

She stomps over to her car and dumps her suitcase in the boot as Chester walks towards Lydia and shyly smiles at his wife. She smiles shyly back.

CHESTER
L, I'm so glad you came.
I've made a mistake and
I'm sorry for what I did
to you. I want you back.
If you want me back, that
is and on your terms.

LYDIA
You hurt me, Chester. A
lot. But I do still love
you. So I owe it to us to
talk at least...

CHESTER
That's all I ask. Can I
wish you 'happy birthday'
now?

Lydia smiles shyly and nods. He leans over and tentatively kisses her on the lips. They then hug each other warmly.

Chester then locks eyes with Gigi who is in her car watching them. He winks at her triumphantly. She smiles and winks back.

She drives off. On the glove compartment there is a business card that reads: CHAMELEONS: ACTORS FOR HIRE. NEED HELP IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE? CALL SAMANTHA HOLLAND ON 07654 364 075. EMAIL: chameleonsAFH@gmail.com. Twitter: @ChameleonsSamAFH.

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